

USDA/Rural Development

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VENEMAN ANNOUNCES \$12.8 MILLION IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

Funds to Generate Economic And Community Development Activities in 10 States

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10, 2003 - Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman today announced the selection of 21 loan and grant recipients in 10 states to receive more than \$12.8 million in rural economic and community development loan and grant funds. The funds are designed to assist in fostering economic and community development in rural areas.

“These funds provide new opportunities to spur economic investments in rural communities,” said Veneman. “These partnerships are helping create jobs and spur business growth in rural America.”

Veneman said that funds will assist 10 businesses in creating over 200 new jobs. In all, the loan and grant funds will assist with 19 community and business development opportunities. Business loans will be provided through USDA Rural Development’s [Rural Economic Development Loan Program](#) while grant funds are provided through the [Rural Economic Development Grant Program](#). Funding for community water infrastructure will be provided through USDA’s [Water and Environmental loan and grant programs](#).

Alabama - \$450,000

Iowa - \$1,219,300

Kansas - \$900,000

Kentucky - \$450,000

Minnesota - \$594,000

Nebraska - \$200,000

North Dakota - \$668,000

South Dakota - \$450,000

Tennessee - \$1,200,000

Texas - \$6,722,600

“Improving access to quality and reliable water supplies along with supporting the creation of new jobs is a critical component of the Bush Administration’s commitment to rural families,” said Under Secretary for Rural Development Thomas Dorr. “These investments can help create a healthier and robust rural America.”

In North Dakota, one Rural Economic Development Loan and two Rural Economic Development Grants were awarded totaling \$668,000.

More

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Northern Plains Electric Cooperative, Carrington, N.D. received a Rural Economic Development loan for \$300,000. The funds assist a local manufacturer, of products used by the agricultural transport industry, with the purchase of equipment for their business expansion. The expansion is expected to add 15 additional jobs to the current workforce of 60 employees.

Dakota Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc., Milnor, N.D. received a Rural Economic Development grant for **\$168,000**. The funds will be used to assist in the funding of a local revolving loan fund. The Oakes Volunteer Ambulance Service will receive a zero-interest loan to construct a new ambulance garage and purchase a new ambulance.

Plains Electric Cooperative, Cando, N.D. received a Rural Economic Development grant for \$200,000. The funds will re-capitalize a local revolving loan fund. The initial loan will assist a local medical center to purchase and remodel a facility and purchase equipment and furnishings for a resident addiction treatment center. The cooperative has estimated that eight new jobs will be created by the expansion of the local medical center.

"This is an important announcement for the recipients selected today," said USDA Rural Development State Director Clare Carlson. "These projects are important resources helping improve our rural communities throughout the state."

USDA Rural Development is the lead federal entity for rural economic and community development needs. It administers financial and technical assistance through a network of state Rural Development offices, various non-profit and educational institutional partners, and its national office. Further information on these and other rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/#>

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